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John Wesley Powell

March 24, 1834 - September 23, 1902

Major J. W. Powell, A.M., LL.D., Ph.D., soldier, man of science, administrative, died at Haven, Maine, of arterial sclerosis, at sunset on Tuesday, September 23d.

Born in Mount Morris, New York, John Wesley Powell dwelt in Ohio and Wisconsin with his father's family, and afterward settled in northern Illinois, where he received a collegiate education and entered on a professional scientific career. On the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted as a private, and was promoted through several grades to that of Lieutenant-Colonel. He left an arm at Shiloh, but remained in the service until the end of the war, when he resumed professional work. In 1867 he took a class into the Rocky Mountain region, thus inaugurating the summer-school system. In 1869 he led a party through the Grand Cañon of the Colorado in one of the most remarkable exploring trips ever made in North America. This exploration grew into the United States Geographical and Geological Survey of the Rocky Mountain Region, of which he was made Director; in 1879 this Survey was merged with three others in the United States Geological Survey, while the ethnologic work of the Powell survey was taken up by the Bureau of Ethnology, created at the same time with Major Powell as Director. In 1880 he became Director also of the United States Geological Survey, which position he filled until 1894; subsequently he devoted himself to ethnologic researches.

Major Powell was prominently connected with many scientific

organizations. He was the leading founder and first President of the Cosmos Club of Washington, in 1878, and of the Anthropological Society of Washington in 1879, and one of the founders of the Archæological Institute of America in the latter year; he was President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1888. At the time of his death he was Director of the Bureau of American Ethnology, a Vice-President of the American Anthropological Association, an editor of the *American Anthropologist*, an editor of *Science*, a trustee of Columbia University, and a member of many executive boards of scientific societies.

A fuller notice of Major Powell's life and work, especially in the field of anthropology, will be presented in a forthcoming number of this journal.

